

# Bulgaria

## Advising Center Profile

The Bulgarian Fulbright Commission in Sofia offers a full range of advising services and coordinates a strong nationwide network of university-based Fulbright coordinators in Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Veliko Turnovo, Bourgas, Rousse, Sliven, Smolyan, Vidin, Madan, Kardzhali, and Shumen. In order to serve students all over the country, especially in the underserved regions, the Fulbright EducationUSA advising center provides regular outreach presentations and advising resource materials for local universities, colleges, and high schools.

## Recent Trends: US Study ▼ -4.3%

- ▶ Bulgaria's accession to the EU in January 2007 greatly enhanced interest in pursuing educational opportunities in Europe. There are over 10,000 Bulgarian students in Germany, for example. The number of students in the UK, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Austria is also steadily increasing.
- ▶ Since 9/11, fewer Bulgarian students apply to US institutions.
- ▶ Most popular fields of study: economics, business administration, finance, physics, engineering, computer science, and architecture.
- ▶ Common sport for student-athletes: soccer.

## Resource Links

Fulbright EducationUSA Advising Center: [www.fulbright.bg/en/education\\_bulgaria.htm](http://www.fulbright.bg/en/education_bulgaria.htm)  
 Ministry of Education and Science: [www.minedu.government.bg/opencms/opencms/](http://www.minedu.government.bg/opencms/opencms/)  
 (in Bulgarian – please contact EducationUSA)

## Education System Overview

	Secondary Education	Higher Education (Bachelor's Degree)
Language of instruction:	Bulgarian	Bulgarian
Years of study required:	12 years	4 years
Grading system & US equivalent:	6 (A) – Excellent (91.5-100%) 5 (B) – Very Good (80.5-91.4%) 4 (C) – Good (70.5-80.4%) 3 (D) – Sufficient (59.5-70.4%) 2 (F) – Poor (0-59.4%) 6.0 (US 4.0) is the highest possible GPA Pass/fail level: 3.5 Lowest on scale: 2	6 (A) – Excellent (91.5-100%) 5 (B) – Very Good (80.5-91.4%) 4 (C) – Good (70.5-80.4%) 3 (D) – Sufficient (59.5-70.4%) 2 (F) – Poor (0-59.4%) 6.0 (US 4.0) is the highest possible GPA Pass/fail level: 3.5 Lowest on scale: 2
	To convert GPA from the Bulgarian 6.0 system to the American 4.0 system, subtract two points from the Bulgarian system. For example, a 6.0 in the Bulgarian system is a 4.0 in the American system.	

## Upcoming Events 2008-2009

The Bulgarian Fulbright Advising Center will place a special emphasis on outreach activities all across Bulgaria, especially in the underserved regions of Shumen, Vidin, Kardzhali and Madan, where most of the minority population of Bulgaria live. The center in Sofia will focus on three target audiences: university students, high school students, and representatives of ethnic minorities. US Embassy officers will be invited to advise students on visa regulations and other key areas of interest. Contact EducationUSA Bulgaria regarding video advising opportunities, recruiting tours, and attracting the best and brightest from its select United States Achievers Program (USAP).

## Country Contact

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## Program Highlights 2007

### United States Student Achievers Program (USAP) in Bulgaria

USAP in Bulgaria is administered by the Bulgarian-American Fulbright Commission and supplements its US educational advising activities. The Program is supported by the US Embassy in Bulgaria and the American University in Bulgaria (AUBG).



The USAP competition for 2008/09 resulted in the selection of 15 high school students out of 32 candidates, representing diverse social groups and 22 high schools in Bulgaria. The Advising Center works closely with the USAP students and their schools to assist them with every step of the university selection, application, and orientation process.



### EducationUSA Students Who Made It

*"A series of training activities were conducted by EducationUSA Adviser, Snezhana Teneva. I learned in detail about the American educational system, the process of applying to an American university/college, the job opportunities I would have, and so much more. To me, USAP symbolizes knowledge, maturity and friendship, and since I think these are the values which characterize a successful person, it also symbolizes success."*

Donika Magunska, USAP Student, Bulgaria

### Key EducationUSA Partners

- ▶ Technical University of Sofia
- ▶ University of National and Global Economy, Sofia
- ▶ Sofia University
- ▶ New Bulgarian University, Sofia
- ▶ Technical University of Varna
- ▶ Shumen University
- ▶ Veliko Turnovo University
- ▶ University of Rousse
- ▶ Trakia University, Stara Zagora
- ▶ University of Plovdiv
- ▶ Academy of Fine Arts, Sofia

Country Statistics	2006	2007
Number of students in the US:	3,633	3,478
Total number of center inquiries:	7,730	8,030